

January 8, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MENTAL HEALTH COURT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS - RESPONSE TO MOTION

On December 11, 2001, on motion of Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, your Board directed this office, in collaboration with the Superior Court, to identify funding for Mental Health Court priority repairs. Your Board further directed that financial options pursuant to S.1865, "America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project", also be explored.

In exploring S.1865, we find that although the bill was enacted by Congress at the end of 2000, with an authorization of up to \$10.0 million per year, appropriation to support the bill was not included in Federal fiscal years 2001 or 2002. Therefore, the bill has never been implemented. Moreover, the act is intended to provide grants to establish new demonstration mental health court program services. It does not cover capital improvements or costs of facilities and, if implemented, could not fund the facility improvements needed at the Los Angeles County Mental Health Court.

This office reviewed the options and cost estimates for Mental Health Court facility improvements identified in the attached July 2, 2001 memorandum prepared for Mayor Antonovich. We have determined that sufficient funding is available, without impacting other approved projects, in the Criminal Justice Facilities Temporary Construction Fund, 2001-02 Final County Budget, for the estimated \$2.5 million in priority refurbishments needed at the Mental Health Court.

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We will return to your Board shortly for authorization to establish a Refurbishment Capital Project and to transfer the funding in order to begin the work as soon as possible during the current fiscal year. Any work still unfinished and any unused funds remaining in the Capital Project at the end of this fiscal year will be recommended in the Budget Process for carry over to complete the work in 2002-03.

In order to alleviate the over crowded space conditions on a long term basis, we will also explore the feasibility of moving District Attorney, Public Defender, and Mental Health staff into leased space.

Please let me know if there are any questions, or staff may contact John Edmisten of my Capital Projects Division at (213) 974-7365.

DEJ:SNY
JSE:JCW:i/h

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Auditor-Controller
 County Counsel
 Department of Mental Health
 Internal Services Department
 Superior Court